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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Haiti

DATE: 25X1A6a

SUBJECT Banana Interests of President Estime

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SUPPLEMENT

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1. It now appears that the banana concession of Jean Elie, Haitian banana king and operator of the export firm of Habanox, was taken away from him by President Estime as a result of the machinations of several politicians named Dessein, Desulme, St. Lot, Jean David, and Charlier, who reportedly got \$100,000 from American business men for their part in the deal.
2. A new company, Habasco, was set up by this group to export bananas in southern Haiti, but when David Shore, Elie's American partner, diverted boats to the northern section of the island to deal with a rival company, Habasco was left in the hole, and President Estime, in order to avoid an appearance of complicity, declared the purchase of bananas in that section free to anybody.
3. President Estime is directly concerned in the banana export business at Port-de-Paix and will continue to control the banana business in the northeast and part of the Artibonite. He has become dissatisfied with his active partner, Leon Bordes, however, and has replaced him with Elie, with whom he has made his peace by the return of his \$25,000 bond and his equipment. The path now seems clear for the Estime-Elie-Shore combination to handle all the bananas in Haiti, both north and south.

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